(b) whether it is a fact that facilities like LTC has been discontinued for all retired Central Government employees, but it is continuing for retired railway personnel, though in a smaller scale;

(c) if so, whether Government would consider for all retired Central Government employees same pattern concession for rail travel at least once in two years; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor, and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The pay scales allowed to railway employees are as per the recommendations made by the successive Pay Commissions, as accepted by the Government. The allowances admissible to railway employees are also based on the orders issued by the nodal Ministries *viz.* Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

(b) to (d) There is no scheme of LTC on Railways. Instead, the retired railway employees are entitled for post-retirement complimentary passes on the basis of length of service rendered by them to the railways.

In so far as Central Government employees are concerned, travel concession facilites are at present available only to serving personnel for being availed during leave at specified scales. These have been designed to enable the employees to visit their home town for meeting family obligations while in service. Travel facilities for visiting other places are also provided to serving personnel on a reduced scale to give them an opportunity to visit and see other regions of the country so that it may help them in widening their knowledge and in discharging their duties as public servants. These considerations are not attracted in the case of pensioners and they cannot be considered at par with serving employees for extension of traval concession facilities.

Reduction in the Posts of PGTs (Commerce) in Kedriya Vidyalayas

198. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms of determining posts of PGTs (Commerce) in Kendriya Vidyalayas;

(b) what are the details of Kendriya Vidyalayas where two or more posts of PGTs were in existance during 1991—96;

(c) whether in some such Kendriya Vidyalayas the second post has since been withdrawn; and

(d) if so, the details and justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Subject-wise PGTs are sanctioned depending upon the stream existing and period requirement of each subject in a Kendriya Vidyalaya.

(b) There are 19 Kendriya Vidyalayas having two PGTs be on 1.4.1996.

(c) and (d) Second post of PGT (Commerce) has been withdrawn from Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 1, Indore keeping in view the requirement of Kendriya Vidyalaya.

Technological Development in the Field of Chemical fertilizers

199. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the latest technological developments in the world for production of different types of chemical fertilizers;

(b) the current and relative position of use of technology for fertilizer production in India, *vis-a-vis* technological developments in the world;

(c) whether there have been instances of bad effects of use of urea or potash or

any other chemical fertilizers in India or abroad;

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken to tackle the situation; and

(e) the constraints in using cowdung as manure for agricultural production and the relative cost, prices and viability, on per unit use basis, of using cowdung and chemical fertilizers as manure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) In the field of production of nitrogenous fertilizers, the latest technological developments in ammonia production based on natural gas and naphtha as feedstock have taken place in catalyst science, metallurgy, design and efficiency upgradation of equipment, reduction in energy consumption and recovery & utilisation of waste heat. Stripping technologies for urea have also undergone minor improvements for better efficiency. A few new process as have been developed for revamping of old urea plants. In case of coal based nitrogenous fertilizer plants, the high pressure coal slurry gasification technology has been commercialised. Pipe reactor technology is the most important developmet in the field of production of complex fertilizers like DAP. In the prodcution of nitrophosphate through the nitric acid route, technological development has focussed on increasing the water soluble P205 content by separating calcium nitrate through the chilling technique.

(b) The recenly established natural gas/naphtha based ammonia plants in India are of international standard, incorporating the state-of-the-art technology. The stripping technology for urea production as adopted in the natural gas based plants recently established/ under execution, is the latest available in the world.

The two coal based fertilizers plants operating in India use the first generation atmospheric pressure coal gasification technology. The coal slurry gasification technology for high ash content coal has not been adopted in India.

(c) There is no evidence to show that use of Urea or Potash or any other chemical fertilizers in recommended doses and integrated manner has had adverse effects on Indian soils.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The most important constraint in the use of cowdung as manure is its alternative use as an energy source. Cowdung manure contains all major and micro plant nutrients required for crop growth. The major plant nutrients namely, nitrogen, phosphate and potash, are, however found in it in relatively low proportions. The use of cowdung manure, which is a cheap source of plant nutrients, improves the physical and chemical properties of the soil. Chemical fertilizers, ideally used in conjunction with cowdung and other organic manures, have to play a key role in modern agriculture because of their high nutrient content, easy availability and marketability.

UGC's Control over Universities

200. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether UGC exercises any supervisory control over Central Universities and Deemed Universities in the matter of admission and fees, if so, the details of the control exercised; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Under the provisions of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, the UGC can specify by Regulations, matters in respect of which fees may be charged, and the